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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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The California Garden

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We believe that the San Diego Floral Association and The California Garden are public institutions, meriting the support of this community generally. In this belief we beg to emphasize a few points. The subscription to the association, including that to the magazine for one year, is only one dollar. This amount does not allow of the employment of paid services to advance its activities. Those who bear the burden of this work are comparatively few in number. Most of them are actively engaged in other business. Is it too much to ask every one to make the work as easy as possible? We think not. In this issue of The Garden are inserted two blank forms—one for subscription to the magazine, the other for application for membership to the association. The fiscal year of the association runs from June 1st to May 30th the following year, so that every member who has not paid since the first date is in arrears. We ask that every one will use the inserted blanks and save the association the expense and trouble of personal solicitation. Do this at once, and encourage those who are working unselfishly to make San Diego a garden spot.

The first number of the California Garden has been well received. It has been pronounced "just what we want" by the real flower lovers. Every number can and will be improved as public support permits. Show your copy to your neighbors, and give them the opportunity of profiting by its timely and practical guidance. Write to the paper of your difficulties and successes; treat it as a friend indeed, and it will prove a friend in need.

There are in this community, as in every other, individuals who have original information on gardening subjects and who are capable of expressing such in intelligible language. To such The California Garden offers its columns. Further, it solicits such matter, as it desires to be itself and not a rehash of something else.

The design that this month decorates the cover of California Garden is the work of A. R. Valentien, whose reputation as a floral artist is firmly and deservedly established throughout the States. The Matilija Poppy furnishes the motif, and is a most appropriate selection for a publication in this section. Although much occupied at this time with a tremendous work, of which we hope to say more at some future time, Mr. Valentien volunteered to donate a design for our cover, and that his offer was of material and decorative value to the magazine, our readers this month will fully appreciate.

THE AUGUST FLOWER GARDEN

K. O. SESSIONS

Have you watered faithfully during July? Then keep right on during August—less on cloudy days, of course.

When you water the shrubs, trees or roses at intervals you should avoid the mistake of digging a deep circular trench, or basin, around the plant and filling it with water. This trench-making means that the young roots of the plants are generally severely mutilated. It is a most pernicious practice. It is much better to form a basin by scraping soil from a distance and making a ring or dam above the surface and using this basin thus formed to hold the water—twice filled should be sufficient. The second day after watering rake away the extra soil, cultivate the soil, not too deeply, unless the tree or shrub is large and well established.

A permanent basin 2 to 3 inches deep and the surface mulched with grass clippings or sawdust is not to be misunderstood with the deep trench that destroys, or deep cultivating with the hoe that cuts off good and new roots. The potato fork, a sort of hoe made from a pitchfork or spading fork, is the best cultivating tool.

The watsonias and freesias bulbs must be set this month for early results, and if you did not get in the seed of good annuals for the winter in July there is still time to plant—but do so at once.

The Chrysanthemums must be staked, and the young shoots forming in the axil of the leaves must be thoroughly cut out, or the plants will have too many branches and too many buds, and then too many blooms to be prize-winners. Quality and not quantity is desirable in "mums."

The new and strong shoots on roses should also be staked and directed from now on.

If you have any of the clinging vines upon your house or fences, now is the time to direct their growth. The general culture for these vines is to keep the young and growing ends pressed closely against the surface that they are clinging to. If the surface is wood, then thin strips of wood, or even cloth, can hold them in place by tacking—but if the surface is cement, or stone or plaster, a small, thin board, held in place over the stems with a brace, or any simple contrivance you may choose, will do. However, if you wish to make the task very easy, plant a shingle against the house where the vine is to grow, and tack vine to the shingle. After the shingle is well covered the shoots will spread over the hard surface rapidly. As the vines become attached and are thriving, if any shoots do not cling, or the wind blows them loose, cut them entirely off at the point where clinging stops. The new growth from that point will be sure to stick.

The ampelopsis vines—Boston Ivy and Virginia Creeper—prefer the north and shady sides and are deciduous in the winter for two months

The ficus repens is evergreen and will flourish on the south side as well as on the other exposures. Very fine specimens of this vine are growing on the south wall of the C. P. Douglass residence, northeast corner Second and Nutmeg streets, and only three years old.

Ficus pumila is a very fine and dainty vine, but as yet is only growing in the shady corners. It promises to be very beautiful, but is a slow grower.

Bignonia Tweediana is an evergreen and loves to climb high. It is conspicuous on the high south chimney at the residence on the northwest corner of Walnut and First streets; also on the south side of the Congregational church.

This vine should be pruned back each March for three years. Then it becomes a spreading and strong clinging vine. The vines on the church were pruned in April, for the first time since being planted nearly ten years ago. To observe the new growth on those old plants will be very interesting. The vine on the tower was not trimmed. It grows so rapidly after trimming and improves so much that one need not hesitate to cut back a plant that is thin and scraggly. This bignonia is excellent for trimming high chimneys, roofs and overhanging eaves. It blooms beautifully during May, with clear yellow flowers, two inches across.

All these clinging vines need severe pruning when most dormant, and, in general, they should not be allowed to completely cover a surface, and never to cling to window casings and the glass but for the growing season.

The very rough surface of many plastered houses and walls is not favorable for clinging vines. The smoother surface of cement, plaster or brick is much better for their clinging.

The English Ivy is the least desirable of clinging vines, because with age the stems become bare and very ugly. Severe and frequent pruning to the ground keeps the growth new and fresh and attractive.

WALKS IN MY GARDEN

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

"And God walked with Adam in the garden in the cool of the evening."

If I were asked to deliver a sermon I would choose this as my text. It comes to my mind every time I walk in my garden and try and interpret the thousand voices that rise up from ground and plant and shrub, that whisper in the trees and float on the evening breeze. I have wondered at such times why every human being is not a gardener, why each and every one will not accept the invitation to walk with God in the garden in the cool of the evening. Surely those who do not, know nothing of what is there, and it is proposed by the California Garden to have a personally conducted walk every month.

Come, this early August and let me try and open your eyes to a few of the wonderful things God has prepared for them that love his work. We leave the dusty road, with its margin of parched weeds and shrubs,

whose appearance of death is so real that it requires quite an effort of faith to realize that they but sleep till the coming of the rains, and enter an avenue of Polyanthema Eucalyptus, planted but seventeen months, but which have grown from six-inch slips to 12-foot trees in that time. The warm weather, together with water and cultivation, has started every nerve and fibre into a supreme effort of growth. The trunks swell so quickly that the outside bark splits and peels. The tips of the branches show plum colored against the grey of the matured leaves, and the whole tree rustles with the bursting life. There are over thirty of these trees, alike looked at as a whole, but varying strangely when inspected closely, both in color and form. And all this was contained in less than a thimbleful of seed two years ago. Another avenue of Ficifolia Eucalyptus crosses this one. These have been in such a hurry to attain to the dignity of trees, that in the same time they have topped the polyanthema by several feet, but they have let their ambition be their undoing. Their growth is soft, and they lean upon a stake to keep upright. Their ruddy tips bend earthwards, and sway with every puff of wind. Only one has made haste slowly, and that for a reward is crowned with brilliant scarlet bloom among which the bees buzz all day, when they can pass the lane lined with Lagunaria, all pink with its waxy blooms.

Three long rows of double Sunflowers insist upon notice. They blaze with the gold they have found in the earth, and they show the result of as many experiments as those made by the seekers after the philosopher's stone, only all are pure gold. Some flowers are round as a ball, with every petal even; others have a fringe of long petals; some curled like a chrysanthemum—the forms are numberless. Yet all the seed came from one head. What fruitfulness—what a gigantic effort in five short months to produce that twelve-foot stalk, those enormous leaves, that mass of golden balls! Surely God walked in the garden.

The roses are catching their breath after a hard three-months' work, and are storing energy to begin again. An occasional bloom marks their identity in most cases, but that glorious white Kaiserin Augusta Victoria is still crowned with bridal offerings; General McArthur flaunts its red flag, and Madame Abel Chatenay blushes pink in the sunshine. Of course that dainty miniature, Madame Cecil Bruner, finds time to make flowers and throw out great strong new growth, too. She is perseverance personified, and should be in every lazy man's garden as an antidote.

A bed of young carnations, grey like the sea when the sun is hidden by a cloud, is sending up its stiff stalks. It plainly says: "For months you have nipped me back when I tried to respond to your cultivation and other attentions—now let me bloom." And here and there, over the grey sea, are spots of color, pink and red and white, where the claws are reach-

ing out of the calyx. In a month's time the carnations will dominate the garden with their clove odor, and every morning yield up their blooms, glad to have energy to do it all over again.

All the thousands of plants are at work—some storing energy, some giving it out, possibly looking to the man who shall give them the environment they need, as a child trusts to its mother. Certainly returning him, for his labor, that health of mind and body which lies in the touch of mother earth and the things that grow therein.

THE AUGUST VEGETABLE GARDEN

GEORGE P. HALL

August, the month of richest treasure of fruits and flowers, is also in California the month of most important plantings of the delicious strawberry and useful tomato and potato—it being necessary to plant the latter during this month in order to ripen its full-measured crop before the cool nights of December arrive.

We mentioned the needed preparation of the soil for the strawberry, last month, but if the matter had been delayed, the spot where you wish to cultivate the acquaintance of the very best quality of the multitudinous strawberry family can still be made sufficiently rich by using well-rotted manure plowed or spaded in not more than three or four inches, after having plowed the spot deeply before, the object being to have the sub-soil well broken up and the fertilizer not too deep in the soil, as the strawberry is not a deep-rooted plant and is distressed if it has to wait for the elevator to bring its supplies, it wants them near at hand, concealed sufficiently to retain moisture and be a constant source of supply. For the cool weather months there is no strawberry that has done better than the Saltzer, Brandywine as the later summer cropper, with Lady Thompson, Dunlap, Senator or Klondike as followers. If strawberries are kept in constant bearing and the plants from these are taken, it is quite probable each season will make a little lower average in size and flavor. If possible obtain plants from beds that are especially used for the rearing of the plants instead of fruit, then these plants will turn their best efforts toward supplying the table with choicest berries. It is well to plant two or three varieties, as some strawberries are not self-fertile. All the above mentioned are, however, but in introducing new varieties it is important to know from the dealer if they are self-fertile or need the presence of a staminate variety in order to insure fruit production rather than being compelled to sing "Nothing but Leaves." If planted in August and well cared for, you may reasonably expect a small crop by Christmas, and with the Saltzer an increase every month thereafter during the winter.

In the vegetable line the planting of potatoes is most important, as it brings the principal crop for winter use. Care should be taken to plant

good tubers of medium size, or good-sized pieces. One in a hill is better then several small pieces. Select the smooth, thin-skinned tubers, with eyes not deeply sunk in the tuber. Be sure and plant in a different place, if possible, from where you planted them last February, especially if there were any signs of scab, or the soil was full of insects; and, in any event, if the ground has been used a long time a good coating of unslaked lime will be an aid in ridding the spot of both scab and worms. The potato is a lover of nitrogen and potash—.21 nitrogen, .29 potash and .07 phosphoric acid—so if you sow the soil with nitrate of soda at rate of 300 pounds per acre (put on one-third before planting, one-third two weeks apart after potatoes are up) you will add largely to the increase of your crop. Nitrate of soda is easily dissolved, like salt or sugar, and while it does the land little service it is an immediately available source of food for the potato. Most of our soils have sufficient potash, but, if needed, the sulphate of potash is preferable to the muriate for potatoes, and a few pounds added to the soil before planting will be beneficial. If you have it, the sweepings from the chicken yard applied in the furrows, before planting, will furnish the needed phosphoric acid; but for single crop vegetables, that quickly make their round of life, you need a quick-acting stimulant like nitrogen to urge the progress to best results. September and October are often quite warm, and particular attention should be given to see that the soil never gets dry to a point where the potato suffers for moisture. If it does, the crop will fail.

It is just as important to get a good start with the tomato crop for winter-bearing so they will set an abundance of fruit for winter-ripening. They, too, are fond of nitrogen, and it can most cheaply be secured in nitrate of soda, which you can procure from seedsmen at a cost of 4 cents a pound. Use about same proportions as for potatoes, only sow on the surface and dissolve with the irrigation water after plants are well started.

Crimson Cushion, Livingstones, Acme and Trophy are good for winter, as well as the Earliana and Germains' Winter Queen. If you have some especially good plants, that you know bear fine tomatoes, layer some of the lower limbs and let them take root, then transplant them for bearing; or cuttings if well-watered and shaded will bring good results. Be sure and get healthy plants. Juvenile tomatoes are apt to catch all that is going. It is well to treat them to a spraying of Bordeaux occasionally, on the same principle that Hans licked the boy—he would need it sometime, if not then.

Quite late enough for pepper and egg plants, okra and sweet potatoes, but if well cared for will come out before Mr. John Frost arrives. On the uplands, plant all the beets, cabbage, lettuce and small fry you did not plant last month.

Too late for watermelons, and cucumbers will be displeased because they have to come to second table.

They detest being sprinkled on hot days in Autumn.

It takes corn 75 to 90 days to make roasting ears, so if planted now would be in by Thanksgiving.

Kentucky Wonder or wax beans will be ready for use in from 60 to 75 days, and you can get a good crop of Limas.

Plant the usual monthly rows of peas and spinach—never out of time to plant them—and if you want greens, like you had in "Mizzoury," put in a row of mustard. If you want something to remember the season by plant garlic, leeks and onions,—all good breath developers for grand opera occasions.

It is a good month to put in catnip, pennyroyal, hoarhound and rue. Be sure and keep the soil well pulverized at the surface so as to hold the moisture you put in the irrigation furrows close beside your plants. Break up and cover with two or three inches of dry soil, as soon as the rows are dry enough not to stick to the hoe when you stir them. Irrigation and aeration in August are very important operations for the benefit of both plant and soil.

MAIDENHAIR FERN

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

Our illustration this month shows a hanging basket of Maidenhair Fern and a Bertha McGregor begonia. Its dimensions are four and a half feet wide by three feet deep, and individual fronds of the maidenhair measure twenty-eight inches. Every part of it has grown without other protection than the ordinary lath-house, and within the last five months, although, of course, the roots have been well established in the hanging basket for two years. Last year its growth was equally large and fine.

The variety of maidenhair is the Cuneatum—that usually grown by the florists for cutting until a few years ago, when another Croweannum came into favor. There are a large number of the maidenhair ferns, but most of them require greenhouse conditions, and a bare half-dozen kinds have succeeded with me under lath in this locality—the two named; Aethiopicum, a very wide-spreading fronded variety, of light color, exceedingly handsome; Pedatum, Gracilimum, a charming tiny-leaved thing; and Grandiceps, the latter having a well-defined tassel on each frond. Possibly a brief account of the treatment given this basket may be helpful. As stated, it is in a lath-house, protected overhead and to the South by other growth, and of course sheltered from direct wind or draught. In the afternoon it gets quite considerable sunlight filtered through the lath. The material used in making up the basket was leafmold from under a scrub oak and spaghnum moss, which has not been renewed in the two years. The good growth I largely ascribe to keeping it always wet, and using manure water twice a week when the growth was most vigorous, but none during the resting period. This manure water is easily made by steeping preferably cow manure (quite

fresh if other is not handy) in water, and then diluting for use to the color of weak tea. No such stimulant when basket was at all dry or dormant. In watering I was careful to wet the whole mass. Another element in success I believe to be the hanging basket, rather than a pot, as it allows of copious drenching with perfect drainage, and I prefer to keep the ground under the basket wet also at all times, the rising of the moisture to the leaves being a valuable assistance to their perfect development.

CARE OF ROSES

E. BENARD

During the month of August the roses are losing some of the grace and beauty they had during the spring. Many sorts are dormant, and the varieties which bloom are producing flowers of a poor quality. It is preferable to not allow them to grow this time of the year—they want some rest.

As a rule, do not sprinkle the rosebushes—irrigate them. By so doing you will avoid the troublesome mildew of the foliage, which weakens the vitality of the branches that will produce the blooming shoots later on.

The mildew is far worse in some sections than others, and certain varieties are particularly subject to it. Powdered sulphur applied promptly on the foliage as soon as disease appears (in the morning is the best time) will check its progress.

Aphis, or green flies, insects which appear on the new soft wood, can be kept off your plants by sprinkling with a strong stream of water. If persistent, tobacco water and a little whale-oil soap, thoroughly dissolved, will keep them in check.

After each irrigating around rosebushes, cultivate and stir the soil thoroughly. Remove the weak branches of the last year's growth. They will not produce blooms of good quality and absorb some of the energy of the plants for future blooming branches.

CULTIVATING THE HOME GARDEN

CHARLES CRISTADORO

If those who have studied the ways of the Indians of Northern Mexico report correctly, we must give credit to the prehistoric ancestors of these Indians for being the first ones to scientifically cultivate the semi-arid soil, actually evolving a process of automatic irrigation and fertilization.

The garden of a Mexican Indian is a revelation. He uses a wooden plow, very likely of the same pattern used a thousand, maybe ten thousand years, ago. He watches the clouds and takes good care to plow his garden deeply and well, and at the *right time*, opening up this automatic reservoir to receive every drop of rain that falls, and then destroying capillary attraction and evaporation by harrowing the soil, and, as it were, sealing up with a moisture-proof blanket of mulch the fallen water.

Who taught the Indian that a crusted garden surface, firm and sun-

baked, was nothing more or less than equivalent to putting tubes into the earth through which the rays of the sun could draw up the water from a hundred inches down to feed it to the thirsty air?

Again, who taught the Indian that sagebrush soil, when opened up and cultivated, admitting the right amount of moisture and air, becomes automatically fertilized through the bacteriazation of the nitrogen in the soil?

The farmer of the dry lands, who has no irrigating ditch or means, except the clouds above, follows the example of the prehistoric Mexican Indian, but *his* method is referred to as "Scientific Dry Farming."

It is this method of cultivating the soil, this, as it were, automatic irrigating and fertilizing of the two hundred millions of acres of dry land "above the ditch", in this great southwestern country, that is to give us our wheaten bread supply of the future.

And the moral of all this is: Cultivate, cultivate, cultivate! Dig deeply, store up the moisture and cultivate your garden, remembering that a crusted surface is nothing more nor less than an automatic suction pump, that, under the sun's fierce rays, never stops working.

A well-dug garden and constant mulching of the surface is worth more, in the estimation of those who know, than surface sprinkling every little while.

If you want a garden you will be proud of, a prize garden, cultivate, and cultivate some more.

Report of Regular Monthly Meeting of San Diego Floral Association

The warm evenings of July brought the long expected treat to the Floral Association of meeting with Mrs. Jarvis L. Doyle and enjoying her hospitality under those glorious pepper trees in her garden at 3328 G Street. Chinese lanterns illumined by electric light gave a soft light on the groups of members chatting around and partaking of the delicious refreshments. It was a garden party as well as a most interesting meeting. The session opened with the introduction of The California Garden, and those present expressed themselves as more than pleased with the initial issue.

The matter of a floral exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce rooms was fully discussed, resulting in the appointment of the following committee to furnish flowers for the month on the days mentioned: Monday, A. D. Robinson; Wednesday, M. German; Friday, Mrs. T. J. Daley.

A number of specimens of flowers were exhibited, and their culture and habits discussed, among which might be mentioned: Campanula and Scabiosa, Mrs. T. J. Daley; Wild Azalea and Tiger Lilies from Palomar Mountain, Mrs. Ed. Fletcher; Double Sunflowers and Roses, the President.

During the evening Mrs. Armstrong gave some charming recitations, "The Petrified Fern," and others; and the whole evening was as enjoyable as any the association has had in its history.

The Fall Floral Exhibition

As has been its custom for the last two years, the San Diego Floral Association will give a fall exhibition the end of October, and for the guidance of intending exhibitors it desires to call attention to the classes for which awards will be made, to the end that specimens may be fitted for exhibition.

Chrysanthemums will be given great prominence, it being the fall flower par excellence. Roses will be taken care of, though, in limited classes. Carnations should be largely in evidence, and there is the Association handsome cup for the best twelve of any one variety. Dahlias ought to make a much better showing than they have done so far. Annuals and perennials will not be forgotten.

House plants of all kinds, palms, ferns, hanging baskets, in fact, every form of growth that shows well at that time of year will have its opportunity. The San Diego Floral Association urges its members and all flower-lovers to make an effort to be an exhibitor. Although it is expected that all exhibits shall have been grown on the property of the exhibitor for at least two months there is plenty of time to secure a specimen now, if one is not on hand. The value of an exhibition lies largely in the ever-increasing numbers of its exhibitors as an expression of a growing interest in floriculture, and the hard-working citizens behind this movement have a right to expect this endorsement of their unselfish interests.

The full premium list is in preparation and will be published in the September number of The California Garden.

Notice of August Meeting

The Floral Association will meet with Mrs. T. J. Daley, 2929 First Street, the evening of August 10th. Take Third Street car and get off at the corner of Fir; or the D and First car, which passes the door.

A very interesting program has been prepared. Carnations will be discussed, with specimen blooms to illustrate, and advice given as to the care of chrysanthemums at this season. A good musical program will also be rendered. All members are urged to bring specimens from their garden, and especially carnations.

The Rev. W. Thorp will deliver an address on the "Ethics of the Floral Association."

The walls of the hospitable Daley house should fairly crack with the crowded attendance.

NOTE—Those interested in new and valuable fruits for small gardens will be interested in reading a valuable article in the July "Pacific Garden" by D. W. Coolidge of Pasadena, on the Feijoa. This journal is among the periodicals of the Floral Association at the Chamber of Commerce. Another article on "Cistrums" in the same number is of value and interest.

The California Garden

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ADVERTISING RATES

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One-eighth page	1.50

Copy for advertisements must be in by the 25th of each month.

The Floral Association, through the California Garden, is most glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. John Vance Cheney to San Diego, and takes the opportunity of presenting one of Mr. Cheney's poems, which clearly shows his sympathy with the objects for which it exists:

LOVES OF LEAVES AND GRASS.

The little leaves, ah me,
Coquetting in the tree!
Swaying in the summer weather,
Now, they steal together,
Now, flutter free, as fain
Never to kiss again.

Yon grass—there, too, I see
Suspicious gallantry;
Each spear unto his sweeting
Whispers a secret greeting,
Then primly, in the sun,
Smiles over what he's done.

Sweet spring-time in the tree,
In fields where grasses be!
So perfect is his vesture,
So pretty every gesture,
I ween no leaf or blade
But wins his dainty maid.

GOOD ROADS

As The Garden goes to press, we rejoice to take notice of the overwhelming majority recorded on the 3rd for Good Roads in San Diego. We recognize what it means in increased facilities to contact the various districts where the numerous species of wild flora grow. It will materially aid in bringing all the county together florally, a much-to-be desired result, as conditions in different localities and altitudes so vary that the growths are equally various.

We extend our thanks to Mr. A. G. Spalding and the other two Ss for their unselfish and untiring efforts for the public good. The S. S. S. of San Diego forms a surer specific by far, and a much pleasanter one in the taking, than a certain much advertised remedy.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

We desire to call the attention of our readers to our advertisers. They have shown their faith in our magazine, and it requires a certain amount of faith quality to take advertising space in a new publication. We believe that we give the money's worth. It remains for our readers to prove this to our advertisers. When you want to buy anything, look for it in our advertising pages, and when you get it, mention that you saw it in California Garden.

The attention of members of the San Diego Floral Association is called to the need of supplying flowers to the Chamber of Commerce Exhibit. Whenever you come down town take a posy to the basement of the Elks' Building and see Secretary Mills smile.

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Secretary.....RODNEY STOKES
868 Third Street

Dues, $1.00 per year, including subscription to CALIFORNIA GARDEN

OBJECTS

To promote knowledge of Floriculture.

To stimulate the intelligent love of flowers.

To beautify the house, school and public grounds of San Diego.

To hold flower exhibitions.

To exploit the geniality of this section from the point of view of the lover of flowers.

And all such other matters as may properly pertain to such an Association.

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